THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government is taking all possible steps, like tightening of tax administration, faster clearances of goods and reducing the time between importation & ultimate clearances of goods etc. to contain the shortfall in customs revenue. Action has also been taken to reduce arrears and thereby increase collections under Income Tax, Corporate Tax and Excise duties so as to minimise the shortfall in total tax revenue collections. As these measures have been taken only recently, it is too early to estimate the likely final collections, and consequently the gap between the Budget figures and likely actual receipts.

[*Translation*]

Trade with Singapore

1484 (h). SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of trade between India and Singapore at present; and

(b) the details of the goods imported and exported during the current year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b). According the DGCI&S, in the period April-August, 1991, India's exports to Singapore were Rs. 351.84 crores and imports from Singapore were Rs. 545.05 crores.

Major items of exports to Singapore include oil meals, gems and jewellery, non-ferrous metals, cotton yarn, fabrics and made-ups, drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, leather & manufactures, man-made yarn, fabrics, made ups, marine products and electronic goods. Items of imports from that country are machinery and machine tools, electrical machinery, transport equipments, ores and metal scrap, project goods, artificial resins, plastic materials, professional instruments, optical goods, iron and steel, organic chemicals etc.

[*English*]

Production and Export of Silk

1485. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to increase the production and export of silk during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the countries to which silk is exported and the total amount of foreign exchange earned during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Silk Board have fixed a production target of 14060 M.Tonnes of raw silk for 1991-92. The export target from 1991-92 is Rs. 55 crores.

(c) The main countries to which Indian silk is exported are: USA, United Germany, United Kingdom, Italy, Canada, Spain, UAE, France, Australia, Singapore, Switzerland, Hongkong, Netherlands, Austria, Japan and Balgium.

The export of silk goods during the last three years is as under:-